

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L L O M E 1182

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, US, SF
SUBJECT: VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER
VORSTER: TOGO'S COMMENT

REF: STATE 099551

1. I BRIEFED FOREIGN MINISTER EDEM KODJO ON REFTEL SINCE
HE WAS IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE AND MAKING AN APPOINTMENT WITH
PRESIDENT EYADEMA WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE TIME CONSUMING.

2. AS INSTRUCTED, I NOTED SENSITIVITY OF FORTHCOMING
VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE-VORSTER TALKS AND MADE THE POINTS
IN PARAS 9-11 REFTEL.

3. KODJO EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE BRIEFING AND
SAID TOGOLESE GOVERNMENT WAS PLEASED ABOUT THE MEETING
BETWEEN MONDALE AND VORSTER AND HOPES THAT SOMETHING USEFUL
WILL COME OUT OF IT. MEANWHILE, KODJO TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY
TO REITERATE TOGO'S POLICY WITH RESPECT TO NAMIBIA,
ZIMBABWE AND SOUTH AFRICA.

4. RE NAMIBIA, KODJO SAID THE CASE SEEMS STRAIGHTFORWARD
AND THE UNITED NATIONS HAS ESTABLISHED A VERY CLEAR
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RECORD ON THIS ISSUE. TOGO IS AGAINST ANY INTERIM
GOVERNMENT. IT IS AGAINST APPLICATION IN NAMIBIA (OR
IN SOUTH AFRICA) OF THE BANTUSTAN IDEA. TOGO CONSIDERS
THAT SWAPO IS "THE VIABLE INTERLOCUTOR." THE FOREIGN
MINISTER SAID THAT NAMIBIA IS A SOLUBLE PROBLEM AND
REQUIRES PARTICULAR EMPHASIS SO THAT SOUTH AFRICA CAN
HAVE NO DOUBT OF THE UNRELENTING HOSTILITY OF THE INTER-

NATIONAL COMMUNITY TOWARD ANY EFFORT TO RETAIN ITS
INFLUENCE OVER NAMIBIA.

5. RE ZIMBABWE, KODJO SAID THAT AFRICA LOOKED TO THE
U.S. TO AID IN THE BRINGING OF MAJORITY RULE. HOWEVER,
TOGO IN PARTICULAR IS NOT A PARTISAN OF THE EXCLUSIVE
RECOGNITION OR AN EXCLUSIVE ROLE FOR THE PATRIOTIC FRONT.
HE SAID TOGO BELIEVES THAT THE NATIONALIST ELEMENTS IN
ZIMBABWE MUST FIND A BASIS FOR NATIONAL UNITY. TOGO,
LIKE OTHER AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS HOWEVER, IS DETERMINED
THAT SMITH SHOULD SEE REASON, WITHOUT FORCE IF POSSIBLE
BUT BY FORCE IF IT IS NECESSARY.

6. RE SOUTH AFRICA, FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT TOGO
RECOGNIZES THAT THIS IS A DELICATE PROBLEM. HE SAID THE
U.S. CANNOT DEMAND THAT SOUTH AFRICA CHANGE ITS SOCIETY
OVERNIGHT. HOWEVER, IN KODJO'S VIEW, VORSTER MUST SHOW
SIGNS OF GOOD WILL BY THE PROGRESSIVE SUPPRESSION OF
APARTHEID. FOR TOGO, HE SAID, THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT
WHITES SHOULD LEAVE THE COUNTRY OR BE DISADVANTAGED IN
THE SOCIETY. HOWEVER, APARTHEID MUST END SO THAT EFFORTS
CAN BE MADE TO BEGIN SEARCHING FOR MEANS TO FORM A REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT THAT WOULD REFLECT ALL THE ELEMENTS
OF SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIETY.
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